

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kazuhito Ichihara
Serial No.: 10/766,969
Conf. No.: 4322
Filed: 1/28/2004
For: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS...
Art Unit: 2133
Examiner: Alphonse, Fritz



) I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the
) United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an
) envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment,
) Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA
) 22313-1450, on this date.

8/22/07

Date

F-CLASS WCM

Appr. February 20, 1998

Registration No. 41,760

Attorney for Applicant(s)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), after the C.F.R. §1.97(b) time period, but before the mail date of a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance (whichever occurs first), with either:

- (a) a statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e); or
- (b) the \$180.00 fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of foreign patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

(X) Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e):

(X) The enclosed references were cited in a Communication issued by the **Japanese** Patent Office dated July 24, 2007 (copy enclosed with partial English translation). Applicant(s) hereby certify that each item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

() Applicant(s) hereby certify that no item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing below after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

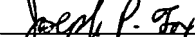
() Enclosed is a check for \$180.00 to cover the fee as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

August 22, 2007
300 South Wacker Drive
Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: (312) 360-0080
Facsimile: (312) 360-9315
Customer Number 24978

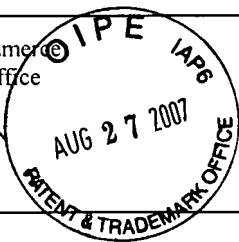
Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD

By: 
Joseph P. Fox
Reg. No. 41,760

Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce
(Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION
(Use several sheets if necessary)



Attorney Docket No.: 1924.69229

Serial No.: 10/766,969

Applicant: Kazuhito Ichihara

Filing Date: 01/28/2004

Group: 2133

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	6,144,324	Nov. 7, 2000	Sasaki	341	94	Mar. 4, 1998

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
	10-256921*	Sep. 25, 1998	Japan				X

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner

Date Considered

*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

* Corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,144,324.